GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1023
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
AUTHORISATION TO ACT AS SAMPLING OFFICER AND LAB TEST OFFICER
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Oil PSUs have authorized a 'Private Limited' company to act as a Sampling Officer and Lab Test Officer for testing the Market Dopped Kerosene on Petrol Pumps;

(b) if so, whether such authorization and further delegation of its power is permissible under Petroleum Act, Bureau of Indian Standards Weights and Measure Act and Essential Commodities Act; and

(c) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty Oil PSUs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (c) To check adulteration in auto fuels, Government has asked public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps,including introduction of marker in adulterants.OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006.Under the new system,Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots.This system heralds the introduction of world class technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain.With the marker's presence,adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected.

OMCs have reported that the initial sampling and testing of fuels for presence of 'Marker' at retail outlets is carried out by the authorized agency appointed by them.In case adulteration is suspected at retail outlets,the final testing is done by the officials of OMCs in the presence of retail outlet dealer,transporter and the appointed agency.

OMCs have also reported that the commercial and administrative aspects like sampling are governed by the Agreement subsisting between Retail Outlet dealers and OMCs.The individual contracts with Retail Outlet Dealers by way of an agreement and the provisions of this agreement are the essence of the contractual obligations between them.The agreement clearly states that the Oil Companies,its officials,agents and servants have the right to inspect the retail outlet premises.

OMCs take action against the dealers found indulging in malpractices as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Dealership Agreement.The MDG also provides for the officials/Mobile labs of the Oil Companies and other agencies authorized/empowered to draw samples/inspect the retail outlets.